



- ~~1. Dr. Didsbury~~ ~~C.407~~
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Old Fletton Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT


of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

upon the

Sanitary Condition of the District
During the year 1966.



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OLD FLETON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as at 31st December, 1966)

Councillor B. W. BROWNING (Chairman)

W. R. ABBOTT

J. M. BARBER

W. R. CASHMORE

N. CULLUP

A. E. DESBOROUGH

N. W. HUTCHINGS

R. F. PATTRICK

E. P. WARD

H. R. VYSE

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health PHILIP V. CANT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Surveyor & Chief Public Health Inspector L. DEARDEN, A.I.A.S.,
A.M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Surveyor & Public Health Inspector.....T. A. WHITE, M.A.P.H.I.

To the Old Fletton Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Fishpool and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my ninth Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the District, for the year ending 31st December, 1966.

Old Fletton lies immediately to the south of the City of Peterborough. It is a progressive and well maintained Urban District with good living standards.

The main industries in the area are Brick-making, Sugar Manufacture, Engineering, Food Canning and Printing.

The Registrar General estimated the mid-year population of the District for 1966 to be 12,750; this being an increase of 270 over the previous year.

The number of births during the year (263) is again a record. The previous record (255) occurred in 1964. The crude birth rate is 20.6 per 1,000 of the population, and when adjusted it becomes 17.9 per 1000 which is comparable to a national rate of 17.7.

There were 115 deaths during the year, 56 males and 59 females, which gives us a crude death rate of 9 per 1,000 population, and an adjusted rate of 12.3 per 1,000 comparable to a national rate of 11.7 per 1,000 population.

One hundred and forty six cases of Measles occurred during the year, but the District was otherwise little troubled by notifiable disease.

There were three new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year. There was also one death from this disease, but this person was aged over 70.

It is good that work is in progress on building the second group of 16 flatlets for the elderly. This type of accommodation is greatly appreciated by many people who are alone, but wish to remain independent of their families, or an institution, for as long as possible. I fully agree with the Surveyor's remark that elderly people should not be concentrated too much in any particular part of the District, and the flats in Gordon Avenue are good in this respect.

The water supply throughout the District has again been very good during the year.

As I mentioned last year, work upon the enlargement of the Sewage Works, and duplication of certain sewers is in progress and completion of the project is urgently awaited. There is serious surcharging of sewers in certain isolated parts of this flat District and it only needs a day of heavy rain to put us into difficulties. The Council, its Officers, and the Consulting Engineers are fully aware of this, and are doing all that they can to speed the completion of the contract.

This is the second Annual Report in which an account of work done to enforce the Offices, Shops, and Railway Premises Act 1963 has been given. This is an important piece of legislation, the object of which is to raise the standards of these premises and improve working conditions. I am glad to find that the inspectors are not unduly worried about the conditions which they are finding in this District.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Members of the Council and their Officers and Staff, and my Professional Colleagues in the District most of whom are in frequent contact with me, for the help which they have so willingly given to me throughout the year.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	3029 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1966)	12,750
Density of persons per acre	4.21
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1966	4106
Rateable Value, 31/12/66	£606,926
Value of Penny Rate, 31/3/66	£2300

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	263
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	20.6
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	4.9
Still-births	3
Still-births rate per 1,000 live and still-births	11.28
Total live and still-births	266
Infant deaths	4
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—total	15.2
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	Nil
Death rate per 1,000 population	9.0

INFANT DEATHS

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Actual Number of Deaths	4	2	2	3	2	4
Rates All Infants Per 1,000 Live Births	17.9	9.7	8.9	11.8	8.9	15.2
Deaths from Cancer (total)						28
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus						5
Coronary Disease—angina						17
Other Heart Disease						18
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)						Nil

Comparison of rates with those of England & Wales.

	Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 Total Births
	Live Birth Rate	Ad-justed Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Ad-justed Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Still Births Rate
Old Fletton U.D.C.	20.6	17.9	9.0	12.3	15.2	11.3
England & Wales	—	17.7	—	11.7	18.9	15.3

Comparability Factor for Births	0.87
Comparability Factor for Deaths	1.36

(The Comparability Factors are figures by which the crude-birth and death rates need to be multiplied so as to find the adjusted rates. The adjusted rates are then comparable with the rates for England and Wales, or the adjusted rates of any other place in the Country.

The Registrar General calculates the factors from information available to him concerning, amongst other things, the age and sex structure of the population.)

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures) :—

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males	Females	Totals
All Causes.	56	59	115
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	1	1	2
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	3	6
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	1	5
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2	2
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	4	8	12
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	2	2
16. Diabetes	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	8	13
18. Coronary disease, angina	9	8	17
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—
20. Other heart disease	7	11	18
21. Other circulatory disease	4	2	6
22. Influenza	1	—	1
23. Pneumonia	2	—	2
24. Bronchitis	3	—	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	—	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	—	1	1
28. Nephritis & nephrosis	—	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	—	—	—
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases	7	3	10
33. Motor Vehicle accidents	3	1	4
34. All other accidents	—	—	—
35. Suicide	1	2	3
36. Homicide & operations of war	—	—	—

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I beg to submit my report for the year ended 31st December, 1966.

HOUSING

Work commenced during the year on Stage 2 of the Coneygree Road Flatlets, consisting of 16 units and a Warden's flat. Basically these are similar to those in Stage 1 which have now been occupied for over a year. In the light of experience a separate W.C. has been provided for every flatlet and detailed improvements have been made in communal facilities, including laundry and goods delivery room. The proximity of the two sites enable a common boiler house to be utilised, and for the Warden's alarm system to be transferable as between the respective flats of the two Wardens looking after both stages. The increase in the numbers of elderly persons on our waiting list, on which I commented last year, continued, and is now approximately double that of the general waiting list. This disproportion will be accentuated by the nearly completed 36 dwellings on the Council's "High Density" Scheme at Stanground, all the units of which are intended for persons on the general waiting list. The Council are well aware of the need for a major part of their housing efforts to be concentrated on provision for the elderly, but at the same time have to beware of building large estates based on a single age group with all the anti-social results that this would entail. With this limitation in mind, however, they intend to provide as high a proportion of elderly persons dwellings as they reasonably can on all new developments. Work continued on the acquisition of land off Bakers Lane, in Woodston, and at the same time a layout design by the Architect selected for the contract commenced. Design work also commenced on a proposed estate of some 80 units lying between Coneygree Road and Thistle Drive. It is intended that this shall include a variety of housing types, a playground, and a "Pantry" shop serving the day-to-day needs of this and the slightly older adjoining estate.

As part of the scheme of introducing accommodation for the elderly on small pockets of land throughout the district, 8 flats for the elderly were completed in Gordon Avenue during the year. Not only did these provide a much appreciated type of accommodation, but the whole scheme added considerably to the appearance of what had at one time been a rather depressing area.

Four houses were demolished under the Housing Act 1961, but in the case of this particular area, all the occupiers secured accommodation other than that available from the Council.

Twenty-nine applications for Standard Improvement Grants at a total cost of £3,730 were approved by the Council. Once again it was found that Owner-Occupiers were the people taking advantage of this chance of improving older properties to a reasonably modern standard.

The provision of mortgages by local authorities came to a halt in 1965 due to national economic difficulties. Money was again released for this purpose, however, during 1966 and the Council were able to offer mortgages to 29 applicants wishing to purchase, in the main, older properties on which Building Societies were less willing to lend than on newer properties.

The Council continued their policy of selling their houses, with suitable safeguards, to sitting tenants, and 40 houses were sold in this way during 1966.

The erection of houses by the Council does mean, as a necessary corollary, the provision of those other facilities which prevent housing estates being merely a collection of dwellings, and I am particularly pleased to report that a block of 7 shops and a supermarket, together with 8 maisonettes, was completed during the year on an ideal site in the centre of Stanground's postwar housing development. These, the library provided by the County Council, and an adjoining public house, form the nucleus of a centre for this large community and must be a considerable convenience to the housewives of the district in addition to saving them travelling expenses to other more distant shopping centres.

Private housing continued to make a substantial contribution to the provision of dwellings in the district, and at 101 completions was only marginally below the number built in 1965. With the completion of Park Farm Estate, however, this will almost certainly fall during 1967.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1703
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	3203
(2) Total number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
(3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	10

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices —

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers excluding those dealt with by Improvement Grants	6
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957 :—

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— | |
| (a) By owners | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |
| (B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :— | |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 4 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | |
| (a) By owners | 4 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |
| (C) Proceedings under Section 42 Part III of the Housing Act, 1957 | |

CLEARANCE AREAS

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of Clearance Areas declared during the year | 1 |
| (2) Total number of houses included in (1) above | 4 |
| (3) Number of houses included by reason of unfitness for human habitation | 4 |
| (4) Number of houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc. | Nil |
| (5) Number of families displaced during the year | 1 |
| (6) Number of houses demolished during the year | 7 |
| (D) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17 & 35 of the Housing Act 1957. | |
| (1) Houses made subject to closing Orders. | Nil |

WATER

The quality, quantity and pressure of water supplied were satisfactory throughout the year. The total volume supplied was increased by 138,000 gallons per day over 1965. The major part of this increase is due to the completion of new properties. The number of improvements to older properties, either undertaken with or without Council aid, is in my opinion responsible for a not insignificant portion – the installation of a bath and handbasin with a hot water supply inevitably means an increase which must be welcomed as providing amenities which ought to be regarded as essential. Bacteriological sampling during the year, both by the bulk supplier and ourselves, invariably gave satisfactory results. The water has a natural fluorine content of between 0.11 and 0.18 parts per million, and at the present time no decision has been taken to increase this to the optimum proportion. For practical purposes, all houses in the district now have an internal piped water supply.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Our contract for the extension and alteration of disposal works and laying of relief sewers continued throughout the year. The rate of progress began to fall off in June, both in physical terms and the amount of money becoming due, and I reported upon this to the Public Health Committee. Our Consulting Engineers confirmed this trend, and accordingly a small Sub-Committee was set up with the specific duty of enquiring into the reasons for this slowing down of activity, and of taking such steps as were necessary and possible to revert the situation. To this end joint meetings were held with the Engineers and the Contractors. It cannot be said that these produced any considerable acceleration of progress, but in my opinion they were extremely useful in bringing home to the parties concerned the Council's serious concern, and in preventing further deterioration. The continued operation of the existing works whilst construction and alteration are continuing on the same site increased in difficulty, and the staff concerned have had an unenviable job in maintaining the plant during this period. It is unlikely that construction will be finished in the contracted time, but it is most sincerely hoped that the new works will be in operation by the time of my next report.

We were at last able to trace the source of oil which had been causing a great deal of difficulty and expense at our works, and the firm concerned were successfully prosecuted. More important, however, was the fact that steps were taken by the Company concerned to prevent a recurrence.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Weekly collection was in general maintained throughout the year with the inevitable exception of holiday periods, or especially inclement weather. We were able to dispose of all bulk waste paper collected during the year, and the payments made to participating collectors under the Council's Salvage Bonus scheme must have formed a welcome addition to their wages. Two blocks of four-storey maisonettes were expected to be occupied in early 1967, refuse from which would be disposed of by chute to large containers. In anticipation of this an order was placed for a vehicle having a powered lifting device for handling such containers whilst at the same time being capable of accepting standard dustbins emptied manually. When this arrives the oldest vehicle now in use will be disposed of.

STREET SWEEPING

Once again we were fortunate in passing through a mild winter which did not necessitate emergency snow clearing works. The vacuum sweeper-collector purchased last year continued to operate efficiently, and we have been able to retain a strength of three street orderlies.

FOOD AND DRUGS

During the year 74 lbs of cooked meat and meat products, and 4 tons 10 cwts of tomato paste were condemned. Routine inspections of food preparing premises and shops disclosed a number of matters which required rectification, but no prosecutions were found to be necessary. What might have become a large scale outbreak of food poisoning was avoided during the year when it was found that a person about to take up employment in a factory canteen was a carrier of food-poisoning organisms. With the prompt co-operation of the management concerned we were able to prevent him commencing employment until a course of treatment removed the condition. The Council compensated him for loss of wages, a possibility against which the Council take out insurance.

There are 68 food premises in the District divided as follows:

Works Canteens	5
School Kitchens	4
Fried Fish	7
Butchers	6
Grocery	34
Licensed Premises	12

The premises comply with the requirements of Sections 16 and 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960.

OPEN SPACES

We were able to use the new Southfields playing field for football during the year after recultivation and seeding had produced a much improved surface. The area is, in addition to its use for organised games, a valuable open space for the general recreation of the adjoining community.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

At the end of 1964 there were 48 premises within the Urban District which were covered by the above Act. Briefly speaking, the Act covers any office or shop where a person, not of the immediate family of the owner is employed for more than 21 hours per week. In addition to the 48 quoted above there were other premises covered by the Act where action was enforceable by the Inspector of Factories. From the end of 1964 until the end of 1965, 9 further premises came under the jurisdiction of the Act, but 14 premises have either closed down or else do not now employ anyone, so the overall total dropped to 43. Despite a great deal of propaganda urging owners to register their premises before the Act came into force, many did not do so. It was only by shop to shop inspections that all eligible premises were finally registered. All registered premises have been inspected at least once and the vast majority at least twice. Up to the end of 1966, 127 inspections had been made. Altogether there are 464 persons employed in registered premises within the District. Fourteen contraventions have been found on inspection, but so far informal action has secured the carrying out of necessary remedial works.

PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS

There were no new premises licensed during the year, the number remaining at 24. Advice was given to the Mid-Anglia Police Authority in respect of an installation it is proposed to make in this area.

RODENT CONTROL

There were no major infestations during the year, but a considerable number of minor complaints were dealt with.

STAFF

In view of the continuing shortage of Public Health Inspectors the Council thought they should play their part in adding to the pool of trainees, and accordingly Mr. Michael Tighe was appointed in this capacity during the year. He is receiving his theoretical training at an approved course at the Tottenham Technical College.

CLEAN AIR ACT (1956)

Two applications were received under Section 3 concerning the installation of new boiler plants, and the heights of the chimneys were agreed with the applicant in each case.

NUISANCES.

Abated as a result of informal action	.....	.....	.....	4
Abated as a result of Statutory action	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Offensive trades (Health Act 1936)	.....	No. established	.....	Nil
		No. of inspections	.....	Nil

DISINFESTATION.

Rats and Mice.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

No. of houses inspected	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	121
No. of houses treated and cleared	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	121

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—VISITS AND DISINFECTION

Cases of Infectious Diseases reported	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
No. of Visits	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
Premises disinfected :—	(a) Tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	2
	(b) Others	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Schools disinfected	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the District.

Factories Act 1961

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without power	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Factories with power	25	8	2	Nil
Other Premises	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases in which defects were found		2		

Outworkers. There are no outworkers in the District.

I should like to thank the Council and my colleagues for their support and co-operation during the year.

L. DEARDEN,
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1966.

DISEASE	Total Deaths		Cases admitted to Hospital	
	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases
Erysipelas	1	1	1	1
Smallpox	1	1	1	1
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1	1
Diphtheria	1	1	1	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia	3	3	3	3
Measles	146	146	146	146
Whooping Cough	1	1	1	1
Poliomyelitis	1	1	1	1
Jaundice	2	2	2	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1	1
Meningococcal Meningitis	3	3	3	3
Food Poisoning	2	2	2	2
Dysentery	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	168	168	168	168

Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45.....	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards.....	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTAL:—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

PHILIP V. CANT,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Health Clinic,
Whittlesey Road,
Stanground,
Nr. Peterborough.
Tel. Peterborough 68010

